

Claims

1. An information providing apparatus characterized by comprising:
input means input with image data representing a plurality of image in time series;

image generation means for generating a plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally, based on the image data input, and for generating the plurality of images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time point, among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally; and

image display means for displaying the plurality of images generated.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that
the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and
the image generation means makes the image display means display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

3. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the image generation means makes the image display means display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is displayed more faded than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the image

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generation means makes a frame having a predetermined size be displayed at a predetermined position on the image display means, and moves the plurality of images spirally displayed, with respect to the frame, in response to input operation of an operation input.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the image generation means moves the plurality of images arranged spirally, in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the image generation means moves the plurality of image spirally arranged, in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

7. An apparatus according to claim 4, characterized by further comprising focus setting means for setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by the frame, among the plurality of images.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected from scenes of one program.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the image display means generates a background image which radially spreads from a center of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images, and makes the image display means display the background image.

10. An information providing method characterized by comprising:
an input step of being input with image data representing a plurality of image

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in time series;

an image generation step of generating a plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally, based on the image data input, and of generating the plurality of images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time point, among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally; and

an image display step of displaying the plurality of images generated, on image display means.

11. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and in the image generation step, the plurality of images are displayed such that the image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

12. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that in the image generation step, the plurality of images are displayed such that the image at the first time point is displayed more faded than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

13. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the image generation step includes a display step of generating a frame having a predetermined size and of displaying the frame at a predetermined position on the image display

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means, and a movement step of moving the plurality of images spirally arranged, with respect to the frame, in response to input operation of an operation input.

14. A method according to claim 13, characterized in that in the image generation step, the plurality of images arranged spirally are moved in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

15. A method according to claim 13, characterized in that in the image generation step, the plurality of image spirally arranged are moved in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

16. A method according to claim 13, characterized by further comprising a focus setting step of setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by the frame, among the plurality of images.

17. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected from scenes of one program.

18. A method according to claim 10, characterized in that the image generation step includes a background image generation step of generating a background image which radially spreads from a center of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

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